

A SERMON

SHEWING

That the present Dispensations of Providence declare that wonderful Revolutions in the World are near at Hand;

WITH

An APPENDIX, shewing some Scripture Ground to hope, that within a few Years, glorious Prophecies and Promises will be fulfilled.

BY

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To the Reader.

THE Author of the following Sermon and Appendix, tho' little known in this Country, is much esteem'd in other Places of the World, for his great Piety, Learning and Solidity : For many Years he has been a burning and shining Light in the Church : Having published this Piece last Year at Boston, he sent a Copy thereof to his Correspondent in Scotland, who, according to his Desire signified in a Letter, doth offer it to publick View, hoping it will not be unacceptable to his Country Men.

S E R M O N

SHEWING

That the present Dispensations of Divine Providence declare that wonderful REVOLUTIONS in the World are near at hand.

P S A L M LXXV. I.

That thy Name is near, thy wondrous Works declare.

SOME Passages in this Psalm give us to understand, that it was Written by David after the Death of Saul, and probably after the Death of Ishboseth, Sauls Son and Successor; whereby Way was made for David to have a peaceable Possession of the Kingdom, which God had long before promised unto him; and we find him here promising God, that when Power should be put into his Hands, he would use it for these Ends that it was given to him for. Namely, to protect and encourage Righteous Men, to suppress Vice and to punish Sinners. This Verse is *Gratulatory*, it doth contain Matter of Thanksgiving; not only David, but those that did adhere to his Interest in Opposition to the House of Saul, are here brought in as giving Thanks to God; in the beginning of this Verse, 'tis said, *we give thanks unto thee, O Lord*. All the Godly People throughout the Land, who were firm to Davids Interest gave Thanks, as being affected with the Consideration of what God was about to do for him, they bless the Lord, for the Mercy which they should all have in such a King and Ruler as David. The Reason why they gave Thanks is express'd in the Words that have been Read, *viz. In that Gods Name was near, we give thanks unto thee for thy Name is near*, Gods Name is often put for himself, in the Scripture; Thy Name, is near *i. e.* Thou thy self art near.

near; the Attributes of God (which are himself) his Power and his Truth were very speedily to be Revealed, by his fulfilling of what he had promised, thus was his Name near, and this was evident from the Works of God. They were then in the Beginning of a Wonderful *Revolution*. A Wonderful Change of the State of Affairs, throughout the whole Nation. And they did conclude, that God would go on with his own Work, *Thy wondrous works declare that thy Name is near*, that thou art about to perform the wondrous things promised concerning *Dauids* Kingdom. The Works of God towards *David* were very Wonderful, his being preserved, when there were such Attempts against him, from time to time, and God's removing those that were the chief Enemies of *Dauids* Interest, first *Saul*, then *Abner*, and after that *Ish-bobeth*, God's removing them in such ways as he did. These were wondrous Works, and did shew that God was about to perform his Gracious Promises.

The Doctrinal Truth at present before us is, *That when Gods Time for the Accomplishment of Glorious Promises, is near, his wondrous Works will declare it.*

Joseph said unto *Pharaoh*, Gen. 41. 25. *God hath shewed unto Pharaoh what he is about to do.* When God is about to do wonderful Things in the World, he is wont to shew it; his Works in Consideration with his Word do then declare it. The Doctrine may be confirmed in three Propositions.

Prop. I. *That whatever God hath promised, will in the appointed time be certainly performed; Gods Promises are all true Promises, 2 Sam. 7. 28. Thou hast promised and thy Words are true, saith David.* There is no Deceit, nor is there any Mistake in Divine Predictions or Promises, *Rev. 22. 6. These sayings are faithful and true*, whatever God hath spoken shall faithfully and truly be performed, if God hath promised, the thing is as certain to be done, as if it were already accomplished. Hence as to the great Promise concerning the coming of Christ, the Prophet speaks as *Isa. 9. 6. Unto us a Child is born*: Altho he did utter these Words above seven Hundred Years before Christ was born into the World, yet he sayeth unto us a Child is born, the thing is as certain to be done, as if already done. Altho it may seem improbable and to the Judgment of Men impossible that such a thing should ever be, yet if God has promis'd it, his wonderful Works will accomplish it. It was very unlikely that *David* should come to enjoy the Kingdom, such an obscure Man as he was, when *Saul* had a mighty Army to oppose him, and
Children

Children of his own to be his Successors, all these things notwithstanding; God that had promised it, did bring it to pass, and this God also doth in the Time which he had prefixed, *Isa. 60. ult. One shall become a Thousand, and a little one shall become a great Nation, the Lord will hasten it in its time.* A very improbable thing, that a little one should become a great Nation, nevertheless this was to be in the time appointed. Hence it is said, *Hab. 2. 3. The Vision is for an appointed time, it will speak and not lie; tho' it tarry, wait for it, it will come and not tarry:* It will not tarry beyond the appointed time, altho' it may tarry longer than Men have supposed or desired, notwithstanding that, it will not tarry a Day, or an Hour longer than God's appointed time, then it will come and will not lie, *Exod. 9. 5, 6. The Lord appointed a set time, saying, To Morrow the Lord shall do this thing in the Land,* and in the Morrow God did that thing, he did not only do the thing he said he would do, but on the very Day he said it should be done. But the Truth of this Proposition is evident from several things.

1. *From the Name and glorious Attributes of the blessed God.* When God doth fulfill his Promises, he doth make it known that he is Jehovah, and in as much as his Name is Jehovah, it is impossible that any Word that he hath spoken should fail as to the Accomplishment of it. The Lord said, that he was not known unto *Abraham*, and *Isaac*, and *Jacob*, by his Name *Jehovah*, *Exod. 6. 3.* but by that Name, he would then be known unto the Children of *Israel*; The meaning is not, that *Abraham* was ignorant of that glorious Name as a Title peculiarly belonging to the true God, for he called the place where a Lamb was provided for a Sacrifice instead of *Isaac* by the Name of *Jehovah-jireb*; therefore the meaning is, That God was not known to the Fathers by fulfilling the Promises he had made to the Patriarchs, and which were to be performed to their Children after them, but to *Israel*, he would make known that he was Jehovah, by giving a *Being*, and actual *Existence* to those Promises. God is a God of infinite Power, and a God that keepeth Truth for ever. When Men fail in performing of what they have promised, the Reason is, because they want *Truth* and *Power* to do as they have said they would do. Men that have no Truth in them will promise what they never intended to do, like the Devil who promised the Lord Jesus Christ, that if he would worship him, he would give him all the Kingdoms of the World to be his. The Devil never intended to do any such thing, nor was it in his Power to do it; but now as to the blessed God, it is impossible that he should lie, he is

God

God that cannot lie, *Rom. 3. 4.* *Let God be true and every Man a liar, i. e.* every Man that doth call the Truth of God into Question, let that Man be called a Liar, for so he is; and a Blasphemer too. So then, that Attribute of Divine Truth proves this. And as for the Power of God, that is Infinite, he is the Omnipotent God, he is (as some have observed) above seventy Times, in the Scripture stiled the Almighty; he has Power to do whatever he will do, *Job 42. 2.* *I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no Thought can be withheld from thee.* God can do things that are above the Power of Nature, when he pleaseth, and will do so, rather than his Word; his Promise shall not be made good. When God promised that *Sarah* should have a Son, because it was above the ordinary Course of Nature she could not believe it, the Angel does therefore rebuke her, saying, *Gen. 18. 14.* *Is any thing too hard for the Lord;* Tho' this be above what is usual, yet if the Lord hath spoken it, is it too hard for him to cause it to be so? It was a thing very unlikely that the Children of *Israel* should be brought out of the Land of *Egypt*, considering that they were a poor unarmed People, and were dispirited by the Slavery and cruel Bondage which they had for a long time been in, and their Enemies were more in Number than they; nevertheless, since God had made such a Promise, he did bring it about to shew his Power, *He saved them for his Names sake, that he might make his mighty Power known.* That the *Jews* should be brought out of *Babylon*, was more improbable than their Deliverance out of *Egypt*, because the King of *Babylon* was a far more Potent Prince, than *Pharaoh* King of *Egypt*; nevertheless, in as much as God promised it, his Power did effect it, *Jer. 50. 34.* *Their Redeemer is strong, the Lord of Hosts is his Name;* God's Strength and Power is such, as he could do that wondrous Thing. So that the *Jews* who at this Day are the most forlorn Nation in the World, should again be called, and become the People of God is incredible to many, but the Apostle proves that it shall be so, from the infinite Power of God, *Rom. 11. 13.* God is able to Graft them in again, because he is able and hath so promised, it shall surely be done.

2. This is evident from the Stability and Immutability of Divine Decrees, *Psal. 33. 11.* *The Counsel of the Lord shall stand for ever, and the Thoughts of his Heart unto all Generations.* What God hath promised he hath certainly purposed to perform. His Promise is the Effect and Declarative of his Decree. The Purpose of God shall stand, yea and it shall stand for ever. Men do oftentimes purpose and change their Mind, but God

God doth not so. Therefore the Apostle speaks of *the Immutability of his Counsel*, Heb. 6. 17. When Men purpose, and do not accomplish what they intended, the Reason of their not doing of it is either for Want of Wisdom or of Power; many times for Want of Wisdom, because they did not at first see the Inconveniency of such a Resolution, which they have taken up, therefore upon second Thoughts that are wiser they change their Minds, but God is infinitely Wise, and therefore he doth not change his Mind. The Decrees of God are so Wise, as that wiser cannot possibly be, and thence they are Immutable. And as for the Power of God, you heard that was Infinite, and therefore his Purposes, and consequently his Promises must needs hold good. Hence *Samuel* said to *Saul*, 1 Sam. 15. 29. *The Strength of Israel is not as a Man that he should repent.* As for what God hath spoken of Ruin to come on the House of *Saul*, he will not repent of it, and as for what God hath promised concerning *David* and his House he will not change his Mind; for if he should, that would argue *Weakness* in him, whenas *he is the Strength of Israel*, the Strength of *Israel* will not change his Mind; The Decrees of God are in *Zech. 6.* compared to Mountains of Brass, the Prophet there sees four Chariots which came from between two Mountains of Brass, signifying the Judgments of God coming upon his Enemies in order unto the Deliverance of his People, and these Judgments are but the Effects of the Decrees of God compared to Mountains of Brass, for that they cannot be removed or frustrated.

3. *The Experience of all Ages confirms this to be so*, Psal. 119. 160. *Thy Word is true from the Beginning*; Ever since the World began, in all Ages of it God hath made good his Word, and truly performed what he hath promised, particular Saints have always found it so. There were peculiar Promises made to *David*, that God would give him the Kingdom, and after that God promised that a Son of his should succeed him in the Throne, and particularly that *Solomon* was the Son that should be his Successor; now *Solomon* doth with great Affection take notice how God had performed his Word, 1 Kings 8. 24. *Thou hast kept with my Father* (saith he) *that thou promisedst him, and what thou hast spoken with thy Mouth thou hast fulfilled with thy hand, as at this Day.* Thou didst tell my Father *David* that I should succeed in the Throne and build this Temple, and so it is this Day. So the Promises God hath made concerning his Church we have seen them fulfilled in all preceeding Ages, God hath verified his Word as when he did Promise unto *Abraham*, that his Posterity should be brought out of *Egypt* after a long time of Affliction there; this Promise that
God

God made to *Abraham* four hundred and and thirty Years before it was, at last fulfilled, and God kept His Word to a Day. And therefore, 'tis an observable Scripture which you have to this Purpose in *Exod.* 12. 40, 41. It is said, *It came to pass at the End of the four hundred and thirty Years, in the self same Day it came to pass.* You see that God kept His Promise made to *Abraham*, to a Day in bringing His Posterity out of the Land of *Egypt*. So the great Promise which all the Fathers lived upon concerning the coming of Christ, and His dying to save His People; It was declared unto *Daniel*, that within seventy prophetic Weeks, that is four hundred and ninety Years, this should be accomplished, and we know that it was so. The Promises made, concerning the calling of the Gentiles, and the Enlargement of the Church, the pouring out of the Spirit in the Days of the *Messiah*, We know, how these Things are fulfilled, and therefore, what Glorious Things are yet remaining to be done in the World, God will certainly do them in the Time thereof. That's the first Proposition.

Prop. II. *That the Works of God, especially some of His Works, are very wonderful!* Thy wondrous Works saith the Psalmist here; in the Hebrew, it is *Nipbleotbeca*, *Mirabilia tua*, thy Marvels, the Work of Creation is indeed a wonderful Work, 'tis wonderful to consider, what Variety of Creatures the great and Glorious God, hath given a Being to. If we look here on the Earth, what Variety of Creatures are there, that (as some have observed) among the Beasts of the Field, there are no less, than an hundred and fifty Beasts of several Kinds, that God hath made; And of the Fowls of the Air, no less than five hundred Sorts of them: And as for Insects, creeping and flying Things, no less than ten Thousand of them have Naturalists taken Notice of: And as for Plants, they are innumerable, some Writers say, more than eighteen Thousand differing in Kind: If we look unto the wide Sea, what innumerable Creatures are there! And if we look up to Heaven among the Stars of God, we ignorant Mortals, do not know what Creatures may be there, so that the Works of Creation, are wondrous Works. But the Works that my Text refers to, are the Works of Divine Providence, These are wonderful! *Psal* 107. 8. And several Times in that Psalm, it is said, *Ob! That Men would praise the Lord, for His Goodness, and for His wonderful Works unto the Children of Men.* The Works of GODs Providence towards the Children of Men are exceeding wonderful, in His preserving and providing for them. But most of all, the Works of Providence, with Respect to the Church of God, as in *Psal*

87. 3. *Glorious Things are spoken concerning thee, O thou City of God, and God doth wondrous Things, in Order to the Accomplishment of those Glorious Things.* The Church's Preservation, is one of those Wonders, He hath promised, that He will uphold his Church in the World; even to the End of it. That the Gates of Hell, shall not prevail to destroy His Church on Earth, and His Providence in that Respect, is wonderful! The Church's Preservation, is a continual Miracle, considering how small they are, and the Number of their Enemies, how many and mighty, their Enemies are! And how few the Lords People are, if we look all the World over; Yet altho they have so many Enemies, that do hate them, and that would be glad, that there might not be one Godly Man, on the Face of the Earth, still God keeps a Number in the World, that do fear Him, and serve Him, and a wonderful Thing it is. God's wonderful Dealings with *David* in carrying him safe through so many Enemies and Dangers, was an Example, a Type of His Providence towards His Church, in all Ages of the World. I have formerly shewed you how the Church of God is like the Bush, that *Moses* beheld, that was burning, and yet not consumed; It is said, *Acts 7. 31. That Moses did wonder at the Sight*, he wondered to see a dry Shrub, all on a Flame and not consumed. The Church of God is that Bush, that hath been all on a Flame, for these 5000 Years, and not consumed, no nor shall it be, while the World stands. This is a wonderful Work of God. And the Work of God, in delivering His Church, is also very wonderful. He uses to deliver His People in such a Way, as they never dreamed of; in such a Way, as Men never thought of, *Isai. 64. 3, 4. Thou didst come down (saith the Prophet there) and thou didst terrible Things which we looked not for; that was, when He brought them out of Egypt, he did terrible Things against their Enemies, which the Children of Israel never thought of, they did not look for such Things: They little thought that God would deliver them. First by bringing ten Plagues on the Land of Egypt: And when that would not do, by destroying the King of Egypt and all his Nobles in one Day, that so his People might be saved. These were terrible Things that were not looked for till God did them. So doth the Lord deliver his People by such Instruments (many times) as were very unlikely to be Saviours, his Works are wondrous in that Respect. When the Children of Israel were oppressed by the Midianites, God wrought Salvation for them by Gideon, an obscure Man of a poor Family in Manasseh, and he the least of his Father's Family; This Gideon with three hundred Men must deliver the Lord's People from more than an hundred thousand Enemies that came in Arms against them;*

this was a wondrous Work ; So that *David* must be a Deliverer was wonderful. *David* (the Son of *Jesse*) a poor Shepherd, must deliver the Lord's People from the *Syrians* and *Ammonites*, and other Nations. And I am perswaded that there is, at this Day, some *David* keeping the Sheep, whom God will raise up to do great Things for his Name : Remember that I told you so, for some of you may live to see it. And the Work of God in Reforming and Refining his Church, is not less wonderful than that of Delivering them : When the Church is exceedingly degenerate, when there is a general and deep Apostacy, that now there must be a Recovery is a marvellous Thing. The Antichristian Apostacy was a general Apostacy; The whole World wondered after the Beast, & the Reformation that was begun near two hundred Years ago, was a most wonderful Work of God, hence *Revel. 15. 2, 3.* There was seen a Company with Harps of God in their Hands, standing on a Sea of Glass mingled with Fire : A Company that was washed from Antichristian Pollutions, and then it is said, *Great and marvellous are thy works, O Lord.* It was a great and marvellous Work of God thus to begin, and carry on the Work of Reformation. That's the second Proposition.

Proposition III. That when God's Time to accomplish the glorious Promises made to his People is near, his wondrous Works will declare it ; Hence the Scripture speaks of the Signs of the Times, whereby we may discern that God is about to do great Things in the World, *Matth. 15. 3.* Christ tells the Jews, *That they did not discern the Signs of the Times* : And what were the Signs of those Times ? Truly the wondrous Works that were done by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Blind were made to See, the Lame marvellously made Whole ; These were the Signs of the Times, these were Signs that God was now coming to fulfil the glorious Promises made concerning what should come to pass in the Days of the Messiah. So with Respect to Christ's second coming, there will be Signs of that, wondrous Works of God, which when we see them, we may conclude, That the Lord's Name is near. Thus hath Christ our Lord instructed us, *Luke 21. 30, 31.* When the Fig-tree buds forth, you know that Summer is near ; So when you see these things come to pass, then know that the Kingdom of God is near ; yea, at the Door. And will hasten on the World ere Men are aware of what is coming on them : But then it will be enquired,

By what wondrous Works doth God declare that his Name is near ?

For

For A N S W E R Briefly,

1. By *Prodigious Signs*. Thus when the Lord was about to save his *Israel* of Old, *Psal.* 135. 9. He shewed Tokens and Wonders in the Land of *Egypr*: *Prodigies* are called *Wonders*, in that they cause Men to wonder, and there were many of these when God came down, to deliver His People. It is an old Observation, that when the Lord is about to bring Changes on the World, prodigious Signs proceed as Indications of the strange Things, that must happen; And that Observation is according to Scripture: For so Christ intimated unto His Disciples, That before the wonderful Changes coming on the Jewish Nation, there should be prodigious Signs, that they might from thence conjecture, what God was about to do, *Luke* 21. 11. *There shall be fearful Signs and great Signs from Heaven*. The Jewish Historian doth give an Account concerning those fearful Sights; He says that over *Jerusalem* there was a blazing Star in the Form of a Sword impending over the City, a whole Year together. And that in the Air there were seen Armies encountering one another; and in the Temple, there was a Voice heard, saying, *let us depart from this Place*; The great God doth commission His Angels to do such Things as these are, that so Men may prepare for what is coming, or if found unprepared, be left the more inexcusable.

2. When we see that God is removing these things out of the way, that would obstruct the Accomplishment of his Promises, we may then conclude that his Name is near, *1 Sam.* 3. 12. *When I begin I will also make an end, saith the Lord*, when God doth begin in a way of Judgment towards his Enemies, he is wont to go on in that Way and Work; as sure as he begins he will make an End, hence the Scripture speaks of the beginning of Revenges on the Enemy, *Deut.* 32. 42. So when God does begin in a way of Mercy towards his People, he is wont to go on in that way. Now God usually begins his Work by removing those things that stand in his way, by strange Providences he doth remove them, he doth cause Earth-quakes, which make Mountains to fall down before him, *Zeck.* 4. 7. *What art thou, O great Mountain! Thou shalt be made a plain before Zerubbabel*. There was a *Babylonian* Mountain; God made it a plain that his People might be delivered. There was a *Samaritan* Mountain that did oppose their going on with the Building of the Temple; God made that Mountain to fall down before him: There are things that obstruct, and there are Persons which obstruct

the Work of God, and commonly the greatest of the World are the chief Obstructors thereof; But now when Gods time is come to save his People, he takes them out of the Way, and thereby shews what he is about to do. When Gods time was come that *David* must be seated on the Throne, *Saul* must die, and *Abner* die, and *Ishbosheth* also, these were admirable Providences, that so way might be made for God to perform what he had promised to *David*. And when the Children of *Israel* were near their Deliverance, God removed their chief Enemies. There was *Pharaoh* the King of *Egypt* to oppose, but him did the Lord dethrone. The Prophet *Habakkuk* takes notice of it, *Hab. 3. 13. When thou wentest out for Salvation to thy People, thou didst wound the head in the house of the Wicked.* Was not *Pharaoh* that head in the House of the Wicked? When we see such things in the World, when we see God Wounding and Drowning the *Pharaohs* in the World, in the Red-sea of his Wrath, we may conclude that *his Name is near*.

3. *Strange Unaccountable Impressions on the Spirits of Men do declare that his Name is near*; For God doth spirit Men, according to what he designs to bring to pass in the World. He doth raise up Instruments, and spirit them for that Work, that he hath designed them unto. So that this or that Instrument, whom God will make Use of shall be strangely inclined to engage in such a Work, and all the World shall not dissuade the Man from being concerned in that Work God spirits him unto. Thus when God delivered his People of *Old* by *Othniel* and *Gideon*, It is said the Spirit of the Lord came upon them. He filled them with Courage and Resolution, that venture they would, God and His Angels were with them and did spirit them in those great Undertakings. *Saul* in the Beginning of his Reign did well, he was an Instrument to deliver the Nation from Arbitrary Power; which the *Ammonites* did Exercise over them, God did wonderfully spirit him for that Service, it is said, *1 Sam. 11. 6.* That the Spirit of God came upon *Saul*, and then he was full of Indignation and Zeal to deliver the Children of *Israel* from those that did oppress them. This now was the Finger of God. And the Lord doth not only spirit a few choise Instruments, whom he singles out to do his Work by, but He doth Influence the Spirits of Men generally after a strange manner. There are sometimes unaccountable Impressions, on the Spirits of the Multitude inclining to do what God has decreed shall be done, which declare that his Name is near. A very strange thing it was that the *Egyptians* should shew Kindness to the Children of *Israel*; That they who were their inveterate Enemies

Enemies should furnish them with Gold and Jewels, but the Hand of God was in it, *Exod. 11. 3. GOD gave them favour in the Eyes of the Egyptians.* God shews his Sovereignty most eminently, by his Ruling in the Hearts and over the Spirits of Men. *Psal. 29. 10. God sits upon the Floods, He sits King for ever, He overrules the Tumultuous Spirits of Men,* so that they shall be byassed and inclined to the very thing, that Heaven hath appointed to bring to pass. When Gods Time was come to set *David* in the Throne, the Spirit of the Nation generally was inclined to make *David* their King. Such things as these mentioned are Intimations to us of the Lords Name being near. Thus have you heard the Doctrine explained and confirmed in the Particulars which have been insisted on: All I shall say by the way of Application is only a Word of Exhortation.

What should the Exhortation be? Let it be in the Words of Christ to *Thomas, John 20. 27. Be not faithless but believing:* As to Gods Promises be not faithless but believing. As to promises made to Particular Believers, and as to the Promises made to the Church of God and the glorious Times that are hastning on the World be not faithless but believing. Something by way of Encouragement let me speak, and something by way of Caution and Counsel.

1. Confid. *It is certain that the Church of God upon Earth shall have a happy Day of it.* Great shall be the Peace and Prosperity of the People of God throughout the World; those things shall come to pass that will make the Times happy; good Rulers make happy Times; and God hath promised that Blessing to his People, *Isa. 49. 23. Kings shall be thy nursing Fathers, and Queens thy nursing Mothers,* and that Promise of Judges as at the first, and Counsellours as at the Beginning, is yet to be fulfilled in a more Glorious manner than ever has been known upon the Earth. What an happy Change have we seen of late, in our own Land and Nation? What sad Times were there a few Years ago, when the vilest Debaucheries were openly practised, when Prisons were filled with good Men; When faithful Ministers of God were not permitted to preach the Gospel. Things are much better there now. And they will be better than they are. The first Christian Emperour that ever was in the World came out of *Britain. viz. Constantine the great.* I am perswaded God has signal Mercy in Store for that Land. Yea and a Revolution is hastning on the whole World, which will make it look with quite another Face than it does at present, *For the Mountain of the Lords House shall be Established in the Top of the Mountains, and shall be exalted*

aised above the Hills, Isa. 2. 2. They that are now under foot shall be above the Hills, and the Nations shall flow to the house of the Lord. It is said, Rev. 5. 10. We shall reign on Earth. It is not said we do reign, no, but we shall reign on Earth; such a Day there shall be when the People of God shall reign, not only in Heaven for ever, but upon this very Earth. Here they have been persecuted and oppressed, and here they shall reign. Again it is Sin and Unrighteousness that makes the Times to be evil, but there are holy Times a coming, Zech. 14. 20. Holiness to the Lord shall be written on the Bells, and Horse Bridles, and on every Pot in Jerusalem; Very holy Times there shall be throughout the World; and therefore happy Times.

*Confid. 2. This happy blessed Day is near at hand; when the Man of sin shall be once removed, then the Church of God shall see good Days, and that will be ere long. He hath but twelve hundred and sixty Years allowed him to reign in, and that Time is almost expired; I doubt not but that it be demonstrated from Scripture and History, that more than 1200 of those Years are past. We see the Beginning of what the Scripture hath spoken with respect to the Destruction of Antichrist, 2 Thes. 2. 8. It is said, That the Lord will consume him with the Breath of his Mouth, and destroy him with the Brightness of his Coming. So that there is a Consumption to come on Antichrist by the Breath of the Lords Mouth, as a Forerunner and certain Symptom of his utter Destruction by the Brightness of the Lords Coming. The Man of Sin has been in a Consumption almost these 200 Years. Bellarmine complains that ever since Protestants have preached that the Pope is Antichrist, his Dominions have been lessened. Thus has he been consuming a long time. We may therefore hope his final Ruine draws on apace. We are now come to the Extremity of Times, and therefore Motions and Revolutions in the World will be exceeding quick, when things come near to the place where they must center, they move very swiftly: All the great Revolutions in the World, shall center at last in the Kingdom of Christ; that and that only is the Kingdom that cannot be shaken, the Lord will overturn, overturn, overturn until he come, whose Right it is to have the Crown on his Head and the Scepter in his Hand, and to him will he give it: Revolutions will therefore be very quick and amazing to the Nations: By that Time the Work of one Revolution is well over, another comes on the back of it. The Lord will make greater Changes in the World in one Age now than in many heretofore. The Scriptures speak of Christ's *Davidical Kingdom*, God hath promised, that he shall sit on the Throne of David.*

Ezek.

Ezek. 37. 24, 25. There is reason to believe that this Generation shall not wholly pass away, before that Promise be fulfilled in a more Glorious manner than ever yet. I will mention one Reason to you which is of Weight with me, whatever it may be with others. It makes me to Rejoice in Hope, that the Glorious Times we look for, are not far off; It is this: The Light concerning these Truths is wonderfully brought out upon the World in this last Age. In the former Ages few of the Lords Worthies had their Hearts inclined to Study the *Revelation*. Great Calvin thought one of the best and most Judicious Interpreters that ever wrote on the Bible, professed he could not tell what to make of that obscure Portion of the sacred Book. But in this Century, in the which God hath cast our Lot to be, many have been searching in those formerly sealed Mysteries, and have made great Discoveries: It is said, *Dan.* 12. 4. *Seal the Book till the Time of the End, many shall run to and fro, and Knowledge shall be increased.* In this last Age, there hath been many Discourses, and Knowledge is increased, a Sign that the Time of the End is at Hand, *Rev.* 22. 10. *Seal not the sayings of the Prophecy of this Book for the Time is at Hand.* Do we not see, that the Day Star is risen, the Light begins to prevail, a blessed Sign, that the Glory of the Lord will shine upon the World ere long. I might have added, that the Expectations which are raised in the Minds of Men, concerning some great Work of God, near to be accomplished seem to be ominous. Travellers say, that the *Turks* and *Jews* have strange Sentiments in their Spirits of great Changes hastning on the World, and which is more, there are many amongst the Fearers of the Lord that have so. When the Time of Christs first Coming drew nigh, there was waiting and great Expectation of it, *John* 4. 25. There was then a looking for Redemption in Israel, *Luke* 2. 26, 38. That might be the inducing Cause, which made many Jews about this Time come from all parts to dwell at *Jerusalem*, *Acts* 2. 5. So doubtless there will be in many the like Hopes, before the great Redemption, when the Lord will appear the second Time to Salvation.

Confid. 3. *The Works of God at this Day, declare that his Name is near.* That God is about to do some wonderful Thing in the Earth: Yea that our *David* shall now in a little time have the Kingdom which God hath promised him. Is not the Lord making way for it? Is not the Lord shaking Heaven and Earth? Is not the Lord shaking all Nations at this Day? Do not our Eyes behold those very things, which Christ himself has mentioned as the Signs of his coming, and Kingdom being at the Door? Is there not Distress of Nations with great Perplexities,
the

the Sea and the *Waves* roaring ? Is there not a Storm amongst the *European Nations*, the Sea and *Waves* thereof roaring so loud, that we in *America*, Three thousand Miles distant, are amazed with the Noise they make ? Had such things as these hapned a thousand Years ago, we could not from thence have argued that the Kingdom of Christ was near : But since they come to pass towards the End of the fourth Monarchy, under it's last Head, they are a great Argument, that the Lord is near, His Works declare it. And you must give me Leave (tho I have done it, when discoursing on another Scripture) again to put you in mind, once mentioning such wondrous and astonishing Works of God, is not enough, let me therefore again remind you of the dreadful Earth-Quakes, which these late Times have been attended with. Earth-Quakes are some Times Prognosticks of State-Quakes, Kingdom-Quakes, Nation-Quakes. Historians speak of an universal Earth-Quake perceived in all the Parts of the known World, the like never sampled in any Age, which hapned, at the Death of *Julian*, the last Heathen Emperour of *Rome*, after which were great Commotions and Devastations throughout the Empire. Judicious Interpreters have thought, that this very Earth-Quake, was predicted, *Rev.* 3. 5. That the Prophecy was fulfilled both in literal and a Mystical Sense, the former being an indicating Sign of the latter. Our Lord speaks of Earth-Quakes, in diverse Places, as precedaneous to His Coming *Luke* 21. 11. that is, say some, before His providential coming to destroy the Temple, and burn the City of *Jerusalem*, so hath the Prophecie in Part been accomplished, *Oresius* speaks of five famous Cities in *Asia*, that perished by Earth-Quakes, 6 Years before the fatal Ruine of *Jerusalem* : other Historians mention twelve Cities, which at one Time, and 13 Cities, which at another Time, were swallowed up by fearful Earth-Quakes, all in the Reign of *Tyberius Nero* ; But the like Signs, will appear again, when the Name of the Lord is near, as Warnings to the World, that the great, and notable Day of the Lord is near, it is near. And have not such awful Signs, as these, been multiplied in our Days ? Have there not been Earthquakes, and that in diverse Places ? Has *America* been free from them ? Has not the Island of *Jamaica*, been trembling ? Are not many hundreds there gone down unto the Grave, in a Moment ? Was not *Luna* in *Peru* ruin'd by an Earth-quake ? And have there not been Earthquakes in *Asia*, not long since, did not 5000 Souls in *Smyrna*, lately perish by an Earth-Quake ? But most of all in *Europe*. Did not the Lord shake *Naples* a few Years ago ? But what has

has been done in the Garden of *Europe*? What has been in *Sicily*? How many Cities, and Thousands of Souls (an hundred and fourty thousand, as some have computed) have the Earth-Quakes swallowed up within these few Years: The Lords wondrous Works shew that his Name is come near to *Babylon*. He has shaken terribly the Earth in one of the Territories thereof. And I am perswaded it is portentous, that ere long the Voice of the Angel will be heard, saying, *Babylon is fallen. is fallen!* And what shall I say more? Are there any other wondrous Works of the Lord, for me to commemorate this Day? Has not God beendowing Wonders in *England*, in some late Years, I have received it from very good Hands, that miraculous Cures have been there wrought by the Finger of God! And what does the Lord say to us, and to the whole World, that shall hear of His marvellous Doings? Does He not say, that there is some extraordinary Work of God, at the very Door? Does He not say, that rather than His Enemies shall not be destroyed, or the Promises made to His People, not performed, He will bring them to pass in a miraculous Way. When one was restored to Life by touching the dead Bones of *Elisba*, 2 Kings 13. 21. That Miracle was a Sign, that the Children of *Israel*, who were in a dead Estate, should be revived. The Church of God has been in a sick Estate a long Time. May the late miraculous Cures be a Sign of its speedie Recovery! Several late Writers are of Opinion, that when the Kingdom of God shall appear in its Glory, the Gift of Miracles will return, and that these late wondrous Works, are Drops before a Shower: Miracles are called Powers. If the Lord is come with Power, we may hope, that He will appear in great Glory.

Now then let me proceed, to set before you some Cautions, and Counsels.

1. We are to be cautioned against being Peremptory, and Particular in our timing of future Events; some Good Men have been so, by whose Mistakes, Atheists and Adversaries of the Truth have been hardened in their Infidelity; A Jesuit writing on the *Revelation* does bitterly insult over Mr. *Brightman*, because of his mistaking in some Apocalyptical Computations; when Men who are disaffected see those who have been mighty confident in their timing future Events deceived, they conclude, that all that has been written about Prophecies, to be fulfilled in these last Days, is meer Fancy and Delusion. We may safely upon clear Scripture Grounds affirm that the morning of the great Day of Judgment is near, but for any to fix on the Particular Year, when that Day shall

begin, is too much Boldness, and Presumption: What the holy Angels of Heaven, who will be eminently concern'd in the Glorious Transactions of that Day, know now concerning it, is not for us to say; but our LORD before his Ascension said, Of that Day and Hour knoweth no Man, no not the Angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son of Man, but the Father only, *Mark* 13. 32. Let not us Sinful Creatures, then take upon us to Determine the Hour when this shall be. Some who have done so, have exposed themselves to just Censures, for their arrogant Rashness. Again we may boldly assert that Antichrists Time is well nigh expired. And modest Conjectures, as to the Year of his fatal Overthrow are to be encouraged, but Peremptoriness therein is not commendable. It is very clear from the Scripture, that the Reign of Antichrist, from first to last shall not continue for more than a Time, Times and half a Time, or fourty two Months or twelve hundred and sixty Prophetical Days, which are all the same. And I conceive that it is very clear from the Scripture, that the Reign of Antichrist begins from the Time when the *Roman* Empire being broken, ten Kings rose up thereon, not subject to the Power of *Rome*, as before all Princes in the Empire had been. The ten Horns receive their Power as Kings one Hour with the Beast, *Revel.* 17. 12. This notwithstanding we are in the Dark as to the particular Year, when the ten horned Beast began his Reign. For the Empire was not dissolved, nor did the ten Horns all appear in one Day. There was the Space of no less than an hundred Years between the Appearance of the first and of the tenth Horn. Antichrists Reign could not begin with the first Horn; for then it would have been out, above an hundred Years ago: If it began with the last of the ten Horns, then he is still more than ten Years to reign. But it may be, we must not know till the Event shall be the Interpreter. The *Babylonian* Captivity, was to last but seventy Years; yet the *Jews* were at a Loss, as to the Beginning, and consequently as to the Expiration of those Years. For there were three Steps or Degrees of that Captivity: The first in the Days of *Jeboiakim*, when *Daniel* went Captive; the second under *Jechonias*, when *Ezekiel* went Captive, the last under *Zedekiah* when the Temple and City was burnt. It is to this Day disputed amongst learned Men at which of these three Captivities did the seventy Years commence. Very judicious Writers conceive, that it was not at the first nor at the last of them. A little Time will now make a more clear Discovery, when the Churches Captivity under the spiritual *Babylon* began, and consequently when it will end. When the Disciples were very

very desirous, to know whether at the Time the Kingdom should be restored to *Israel*, the LORD willed them to understand, that it was not for them to know the Article of Time, which the Father had put in his own Power, *Acts* 1. 7.

2. Remember that a little before the Glorious Times come, there must be great Troubles in the World. Just before the Death of *Saul* whereby way was made for *David* to possess the Kingdom, he was in the greatest Distress, that ever he was in, in all his Life, namely when *Ziklag* was burnt, and his own friends begun to speak of stoning Him. A little before Break of Day is the darkest Time of all the Night. That is one of the Mysteries of Providence. The LORD causeth the Light to shine out of the greatest Darkness. What a miserable, what a forlorn and hopeless Estate were the Children of *Israel* in, when the Time of their Deliverance out of *Egypt*, was near: The Christian Church was never in more eminent Danger of an utter Extirpation, than in the Reign of the Emperour *Dioclesian*, the most Cruel Persecutor that ever was, who resolved to extirpate Christianity out of the World, and thought he had done so; erecting Pillars with that Inscription, *Deleta Superstitione Christiana*, not unlike the *French Dioclesians* boasting that he has extirpated the Protestant Heresy out of his Dominions: But these things were done by that Emperour when the Churches Glorious Deliverance and Advancement under *Constantine* was very near. When the seventh Day came, and the Trumpet sounded, the Walls of *Jericho* fell even with the Ground. In like sort, when the seventh Trumpet sounds, Mystical *Babylon* typified by *Jericho* utterly ceaseth. But before that, towards the End of the sixth Trumpet, there is a sad Slaughter of the Witnesses. There are that now make it a Question, Is the last Slaughter of the Witnesses past or future? I will freely declare my own Thoughts to you concerning it. I hope there will be no more a general Slaughter of them. It seems to me that the LORD by wondrous Works has in diverse Lands, as a first Fruits begun their Resurrection. Is not a Spirit of Life from GOD, wondrously entred into the *Vandois* of late? Yea and unto those Protestants of *Great Britain* who have witnessed against the Remainers of Popery; and this after they had been under a Civil Death from the sixth Month, in the Year one thousand six hundred and eighty three in the first Moneth in the Year one thousand six hundred and eighty seven; which is three Prophetical Days and an half. Liberty (which is Life) was then restored, and is since confirmed to them: And that by wondrous Providences and Revolutions. So that I hope (especially considering, that the second Wo seemeth at the same Time to be passing

sing away) we may conclude, That the Winter is past, and the singing of Birds is come. Nevertheless, great Troubles are to be expected in the World by Wars, and other tremendous Judgments of GOD. There is a Scripture in *Daniel*, yet to be fulfilled, namely that in *Daniel*. 12. 1. Where it is said, there shall be such a Time of Trouble, as never was since there was a Nation, to that same Time, and at that Time thy People shall be delivered. The third *Wo Trumpet* is yet to sound, and it will sound quickly; and the Clangor of it will be Terrible over all the Earth.

Lastly, Oh! Be much in Prayer to GOD, every Soul amongst you, that feareth his Name. Glorious Prophecies and Promises are come to the Birth: You may hasten them, by fervent Prayers, unto the LORD, Day and Night continually. When *Daniel* understood by Books, the Number of the Years, whereof the Word of the LORD came to *Jeremiah* the Prophet, that he would accomplish seventy Years, in the Desolation of *Jerusalem*; he set his Face to the LORD, to seek by Prayer and Supplication. So now, when we understand, that the twelve hundred, and sixty Years, for the Churches being in Sackcloth, are to be shortly fulfilled; let this Meditation, put Life into our Prayers: And if the LORD from on High pour out a Mighty Spirit of Prayer on his People, for the Accomplishment of his Promises, that it self will be a blessed Evidence, that his Name is near. You therefore, that make Mention of the LORD, keep not Silence; Give him no rest until he establish, and till he make *Jerusalem* a Praise in the Earth.

FINIS.

A N

A P P E N D I X

To the preceeding Sermon, shewing what Scripture Ground there is to hope, that within these very few Years, Glorious Prophecies and Promises will be fulfilled; with an Account of some great Things, which are now doing in the World.

THE happy Time draws near, where there will be a great Reformation of the Churches, throughout the Earth. When the Glorious things, spoken concerning the City of GOD, shall be accomplished, the Holy Oracles have assured us, That the Churches as to the Matter of them, shall consist of Godly sanctified Persons. *Then the LORD will purely Purge away the Dross, and take away all the Tin.* And the Members of the Church will be converted Persons. *The Gates will be open'd for the Righteous Nation to enter in, there shall no more come in the Uncircumcised, and the Unclean. Jerusalem shall be Holy, and Strangers shall pass through no more. The People shall be all Righteous: There shall be no more a Canaanite in the House of the LORD, Isa. 25. 27, and 26. 2. and 52. 1. and 60. 21. Zeck. 14. 21.* The Sanctuary will be cleansed; And there Will be Purity, both as to the Worship and the Worshippers, in the LORDs Temple, *Dan. 8. 14. Rev. 11. 1.* Now that within a very Few Years, these Divine Predictions will begin to be fulfilled wonderfully, and so as the like, has not been known in any former Generations, I cannot, but from the Scriptures, in Consideration, with the present

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Disposition of Providence, hope and believe. No longer since than Eleven Years ago, a very Remarkable thing has been done, which (if Conjectures fail not) giveth us to understand, whereabouts we are, as to what the *Revelation* has told us; shall be fulfilled in the Latter Ages of the World. If the *Second Wo* is indeed past away: *Behold the third Wo comes quickly*, *Rev.* 11. 14. And the seventh Angel will sound the Trumpet, and when he shall begin to sound, the Mystery of GOD shall be finished. As he has declared to his Servants the Prophets, the Kingdom of the World will gradually become the Kingdom of Christ, until the whole World is become Christendom, *Rev.* 10. 7. and 11. 14, 15. But that the second *Wo* is past, and that the present great Earthquake among the *European Nations* is a Sign of it, there is great Reason to believe. It is generally agreed among Interpreters, that by the second *Wo*, the *Turkish Empire* is intended, which has for many Ages been a woful Plague, to the *third Part of Men*, by which *Europe* a third Part of the formerly known World may be meant. It is said of the *Turkish Empire*, that it is prepared for an Hour, and a Day, and a Month, and a Year. Which according to the Prophetical Account is three hundred ninety six Years, *Rev.* 9. 15. If we can find, that this Remarkable Prophecy, has been in our Time fulfilled even to a Day, it will be wonderful indeed. A learned [a] Divine who is now also a Professor of Mathematicks in the University of *Cambridge*, and who has given a greater Light to many dark Scriptures, than any Writer that I have met with, has endeavour'd to clear this Matter. An *Hour* in the Prophetical Stile is *Fifteen Days*, A Day is a Year, a Month is thirty Years, A Prophetical Year, is three hundred sixty five Years. The Total is 396 Years and a 106 Days. This Author by a diligent Search into *Histories* and *Chronologies*, finds, that the Beginning of the *Turkish Empire*, is to be dated from *May 19. A. D. 1301.* To which add 396 Years and 106 Days, and we shall come to *September* the first A. D. 1697. On which very Day, by a Famous Victory over the *Turk*, it seems, as if an End were put to the second *Wo*, and immediately followed the Peace at *Carlowitz*, which no Temptations have prevailed with the *Turk*, to violate. This (says my learned Author) is the more to be taken Notice of, because it is so exact, as to correspond to a single Day, an Accuracy not else where to be observed in the Prophetical Writings.

But to proceed, when the Reign of Antichrist is expired, a Glorious
Reign

[a] Mr. William Whiston, in his *Essay on the Revelation*. P. 187.

Reign of Christ will take Place and prevail in the World. To Antichrists Reign, there is allowed 42 Months, or which is the same a Time, Times and half a Time, or (which is also the same 1260 Prophetical Days. All the Difficulty is to find the Time when the Ten horned Beast began his Reign : Concerning this the infallible Oracle has given us a Character, *Rev. 17. 12.* The ten Horns which thou sawest are ten Kings which have received no Kingdom as yet : But receive Power as Kings one Hour with the Beast. If we can find when there were ten distinct Kingdoms in the *Roman Empire*, we are to reckon the Beasts Reign, from that very Hour : Of these Kings *Cluverius, Mede, Lee*, and of late *Monsieur Jurieu*, and Doctor *Allix* have written, they did not at all rise at once but gradually. Nor are we to count from the Appearance of the first King, but of the last. Now as the Empire in respect of its real Power and compleat Authority ceased at the Death of *Valentine III.* which was *Anno Domini 455*, so in the Year 456, all the Ten Kings did plainly appear. I do not write these things for the Information of learned Men, who have addicted themselves to *Apocryphical Studies* : But it may be it will be a Satisfaction to some Readers, to see when these Ten Kingdoms began. I shall therefore mention the Year of their rising, and the Names of every one of these Kings. 1. The Kingdom of the *Greeks* began *Anno Dom. 337*, under *Marcianus* their King. 2. The Kingdom of the *Romans*, *Anno Dom. 422*, under *Avitus* their King. 3. The Kingdom of the *Svevi*, *Anno Dom. 409*, under *Riciarius* their King. 4. The Kingdom of the *Burgundians*, *Anno Dom. 413*, under *Gundericus* their King. 5. The Kingdom of the *Visigoths*, *Anno Dom. 418*, under *Theodoricus* their King. 6. The Kingdom of the *Vandals*, *Anno Dom. 435*, under *Genfericus* their King. 7. The Kingdom of the *Britains*, *Anno Dom. 447*, under *Vortimer* their King. 8. The Kingdom of the *Ostrogoths*, *Anno Dom. 454*, under *Theodomirus* their King. 9. The Kingdom of the *Saxons*, *Anno Dom. 455*, under *Hengistus* their King. 10. The Kingdom of the *Franks*, *Anno Dom. 456*, under *Childericus* their King. So that in the Year 456, there were Ten distinct Kingdoms in the *Roman Empire*; consequently from that Year we are to date the Commencement of Antichrist's Reign : Which is to continue from first to last but 1260 Years, which added to 456, brings us to the Year 1716, which is but Eighth Years hence, when it is to be hoped this Beast will no longer be able to Domineer, nor to oppress and persecute the Church of G O D. It is true, that these Kingdoms have been subject to great Mutations since their first Rise, nor have they been always exactly

exactly ten. Nevertheless, they were so without any Alteration for a
 considerable Time, and it is Observable, that they are become so at this
 Day: For there is now in *Europe*, 1. *Hungary*. 2. *Muscovy*. 3. *Sweden*. 4.
Denmark. 5. *Polland*. 6. *France*. 7. *Spain*. 8. *Portugal*. 9. *Great Britain*.
 10. *Prussia*. The creating of a King over that Dukedom has made
 the crowned Heads of *Europe* to be ten, some of the ten Kingdoms mentio-
 ned altho in *Europe*, are not within the Limits of the Old *Roman*
Empire. Nevertheless, there are now ten Sovereign States within those
 Bounds, which is observable, viz. 1. The Hereditary Dominions of the
 Emperour of *Germany*. 2. The Electorate of *Bavaria*. 3. The *Switz Can-*
tons. 4. The Dukedom of *Savoy*. 5. The States of *Holland*. 6. The
 Republick of *Venice*. 7. The Kingdom of *France*. 8. The Kingdom of
Spain. 9. The Kingdom of *Portugal*. 10. The Kingdom of *Great Britain*.
 [see Mr. *Whiston* p. 235] Several other things may be mentioned, which
 confirm our Hopes that Antichrists Reign will expire in the Year 1716.
 It is an ingenious Observation, which *Villalpandus* (and from him Mr.
Mede) has and is improved by Mr. *Whiston* (*b*) That the inner Court
 of the Temple, was to the outward Court as 12 to 42 or 360 to 1260. Of
 this he (who being Professor was able to do it) has given a Mathema-
 tical Demonstration. The inner Court which was to be measured, *Rev.*
11. 1. relates to the purer State of the Church in the Primitive Ages of
 Christianity, for 360 Years after *John* had his Apocalyptical Visions.
 The outer Court relates to the Antichristian State of the Church, which
 was to succeed and continue 1260 Years. The Apostle had his Vision,
A. D. 96. Which added to 360, makes 456. At which Period ends the
 pure State of the Church; And the Antichristian State begins, and con-
 tinues 1260 Years, until 1716. When we may expect a notable Down-
 fall of Antichrists Kingdom, and a glorious Exaltation of the Kingdom of
 our Lord Jesus Christ. The but now mentioned Author, has another a-
 cute Observation, viz. That the famous Number of two thousand and three
 hundred Days spoken of by the Prophet *Daniel* (*Ch. 8. v. 14.*) will
 expire in the Year 1716. This Vision (he says) which determines the
 Period of the Churches Pollution to 2300 Days from the time that it was
 seen, does most exactly and surprizingly agree with the Computation a-
 bove, *b. e.* to *Anno Dom.* 1716. For 2300 *Caldean* Years of 360 Days, are
 equal to 2266 *Julian* Years, and 344 Days, or in a round Number to 2267
Julian years, and the Date of the Vision, is in the third Year of *Belsaz-*

zar King of *Babylon*. If we add to that year, 2267 *Julian* years, it brings us to *Anno Dom.* 1716. One Observation more. The Pope of *Rome* who is by the Apostle called, the Man of Sin, and in the *Revelation*, the false Prophet, and the second Beast, who has two Horns: And in *Daniel*, the little Horn, who was to be diverse from the ten Horns, and was to obtain his Dominion some Time after them, and should domineer for a Time, and Times, and the dividing, or Part of a Time, *Dan.* 7. 24. and 25. By the Division of Time (as our Author observes) a prophetic Month, (and not half a Year, as has been commonly supposed) is intended; for the most eminent and remarkable Division or Part of a Year, is a Month, as the most eminent Part of a Month, is a Week, and of a Week a Day; and of a Day an Hour. So then a Time, and Times, and a Division of Times, makes a Thousand, an hundred and ten Years. Now that the Pope of *Rome* has domineered, ever since the Year 606, cannot be doubted. For then he was declared to be the *universal Bishop* and Head of the whole Church; Which ambitious Title, proclaimed him to be Anti-christ: As also some of his Predecessors, Bishops of *Rome* had confessed, that no one but an Anti-christ would usurp that Title. Add to six hundred and six, eleven hundred and ten Years, allowed for the Dominion of that Horn, and it brings us to A. D. 1716 for the Expiration of his Reign. Let me add further, That my worthie Friend Mr. *Samuel Petto* (who is (if living as I hope he still is) the Reverend and aged Pastor of a Church in *Sudbury*, in *Suffolk*) has a peculiar Notion, which nevertheless falls in with 1716. He in his *Revelation unveiled*, P. 35, 36. apprehends that the Epocha of the Number of the Beast 666, begins not from the first rising of the Beast, but from his first marking Time, *Rev.* 13. 17. Or his first causing his Followers to receive a Mark in their Fore-heads, or Hands, as a Note of Distinction of the *Bestian*, from the opposite Party. This Mark he thinks began in the Year 1050. Add to that 666, and it brings us to 1716.

But these Things, may not be so understood, as if there should be no Anti-christ or Pope in the World after that Time: For he must continue in Being, to the second Coming of Christ; When that flaming Fire, in which the Lord shall be revealed from Heaven, will utterly consume him, *Dan.* 7. 11. *2 Thes.* 2. 8. After the seventh Trumpet shall begin to sound, there are Vials (containing the Woes of that Trumpet) to be poured out on the antichristian World. How long a Space of Time, the Vials, or any one of them, will take up, the Scripture has

not revealed. I know there is an anonymous Author, who pretends, that the pouring out of each Vial, will comprehend the Space of 36 Years. The Author was (as I have been informed) Mr *Cusson*, a Minister at *Denver*, in *Norfolk*. But his Applications are perfect Mistakes, nor is there any Solidity in his Foundation. We must distinguish between the Reign of Anti-christ, and his Life. The Power of the Beast is his Power of making War, and overcoming the Saints, Rev. 13. 7. This we may hope, will within these very few Years, come to a Period. But his Life will be prolonged still. The Tyranny of the Beast ends with the sixth Trumpet. But his utter Destruction is not before the Conclusion of the Seventh Trumpet. *Rome* was not built in a Day, nor will it fall in a Day.

Tanta Molis erit Romanam perdere Gentem:

Its true, that Things are now hastning to their Center ; Hence swift Revolutions are to be expected. Nevertheless, since every one of the other Trumpets has a considerable Space of Time, we may not think, that the Work of the seventh Trumpet, which contains seven Vials, and seven Thunders, will be dispatched in a few Days ; That Trumpet ends with the Resurrection of the Dead, and Conflagration of the World, 2 Pet. 3. 12, 13. Rev. 11. 18 The Scripture speaks of a twofold Fall of *Babylon*. The first is partial, and to be expected in less than ten Years. The other, is total under the last Vial of the seventh Trumpet, which is yet to sound, Rev. 16. 17, 19. altho the utter Abolition of all Anti-christian Power, is not to be expected, in our Days ; Nevertheless, we have Scripture Ground, to hope for the speedie Accomplishment of great Things, e. g. 1. That at the Period so often mentioned, there will be an End of the Tyranny, both of the ten Horns, and of the little Horn, they shall not have Power to do any more such Mischief, in the World, as for many Ages past, they have done.

2. That the Church shall then put off her Sackcloth, that the 1260 Years for the Witnesses to prophesie in Sackcloth will then expire. Yea that they shall obtain a happie Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven, their Enemies to their no little Amazement beholding them; The supreme powers where they have been slain, putting great Respect upon them, Rev. 11. 11, 12. we have Reason to expect.

3. That one (and a principal one) of the ten Kingdoms, whereby the Beast at *Rome* has been supported, shall undergo a marvellous Revolution.

on, *Rev. 11. 12. The same Hour there was a great Earthquake, and the tenth Part of the City fell.* By the tenth Part of the City, I understand, one of the ten Kingdoms, into which *Babylon* the great City, *i. e. Rome*, has been divided, which of these ten Kingdoms it is, a very few Years will determine. *Dr. Goodwin* in his Exposition of the *Revelation*, P. 176 conjectured long since, it would be the Kingdom of *France*, for that very many Witnesses and Martyrs have been there. *Cocceius* also thinks, that by the tenth Part of the City, *France* is intended. Several Things may incline us to be of that Opinion. For *France* has been the greatest, of all the ten Kingdoms. And it was, as *Mr Whiston* (c) observes, the *το δεκάτον*, the tenth and last of the Kingdoms in Order of its Rise, that it therefore denominated the Beast, a Beast with ten Horns, arising exactly the very same Time with the Beast, & that it alone of all the ten, has never been conquered since its first Rise, and as it all along has hitherto continued, so probably it is not to fall in the propheticall Phrase, till the End of that grand Period 1716.

4thly. It is to be hoped, that the Restauration of the Jews, is near at Hand. Does not the Prophet *Daniel* tell us, that when the Time, Times, and half a Time, is expired, the Dispersion of the Holy People (so are the Jews called) shall be finished, *Dan. 12. 7.* And our Saviour has told us, that *Jerusalem* shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the Times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, *Luke 21. 24.* When the Time, Times, and half a Time is accomplished, the Times of the Gentiles, will be fulfilled; then *Jerusalem* shall be no longer trodden down. To this agrees that of the Apostle, *Rom. 11. 25, 26.* Blindness has hapned to *Israel* until the Fulness of the Gentiles shall come in; And so all *Israel* shall be saved. It is foretold by one of the Prophets, that when the Jews shall be called, the great Trumpet shall be blown, *Isai. 27. 13.* That great Trumpet, I take to be the same with the seventh Trumpet, in the Revelation, *John* expounds *Isai.* in *Rev. 10. 6, 7.* And I am still of the Opinion, that the Jews Conversion will be brought to pass, in an extraordinary Manner, as *Paul's* was, by an Appearance of Christ to them; The Reasons for this mentioned in my *Diatriba de signo filii Hominis*, printed at *Amsterdam* 1682, are of weight with me, notwithstanding I supposed it only as a Problem. Several Things very remarkable have lately come to pass, which are a great Encouragement to Faith and Prayer, that the Glorious Things to be done, in the latter Days, make haste upon us; *e. g.*

1. The passing away of the second Wo before mentioned, at least-wise, *videtur quod sic*.

2. Some Protestant Princes have of late been Valiant for the Truth upon Earth, and have given a Check to the Persecutions and Tyranny of the Popish Antichristian Party. This has the King of *Prussia* done. Providence has smiled on the pious Endeavours of that Prince, to unite the *Lutherans* and the *Calvinists*, which was obtained among those in his Dominions: And other foreign Churches express a greater Desire of Union, than ever was observed in the former Age. Also that King's being declared the Sovereign of *Newschatel*, has secured the Protestant Religion in that Country. It is remarkable that this was done on the same Day that the Popish Religion was banished from that Country 177 years before. And the King of *Sweden*, has caused 800 Churches of Protestants in *Silesia* to be restored notwithstanding the obstinate Resistance of the *Popish Clergy* against it. That King also being thereunto advised by (the best of Queens) the Queen of *Great Britain* insists upon it. That *Calvinists* as well as *Lutherans*, shall have Liberty of Conscience, and that if any Papists being convinced of the Falsity of their Religion, shall embrace the Protestant (which is the only true) Religion, they shall not on that Account be persecuted. These hopeful Beginnings are a Sign that Antichrist is falling, and the Kingdom of Christ on the rising Hand. The Truth is, the Popes Kingdom has been falling for these several Ages. And notwithstanding has regained some Countries, which had rejected him, the Pope is a little thing at this Day compared to what he was in some former Ages, when all the Princes of *Europe* stood in Aw of him. Within this Year or two notable *Shakes* have been given him; his espousing the Interest of the *French King*, has justly provoked not only the King of *Spain*, but the Emperour of *Germany* also: And what the Issue of those Resentments may be, Time will Discover. Moreover some Letters inform us, that very lately a considerable number of People within the *Venetian Territories*, are grown sick of Popery, and incline to the Protestant Religion: And a misunderstanding there is, between that Republick and the Court of *Rome*. The *Pharisees* of old would compass Sea and Land, to make Profelytes for Hell. So have their genuine Off-spring the *Jesuits* done, to make Profelytes for Antichrist, but Signal Rebukes have lately attended them; for the Roman Catholicks in *Armenia* are brought to Confusion. And the Emperour of *China*, has caused the Popes Legate to be put to Death. These are Remarkable Providences.

3. Of late, God has wonderfully animated many good Men, to endeavour

your a *Reformation of Manners*. The first Christian Emperor came out of *Great Britain*, and his Mother *Helena*, the first Christian Empress was born there (viz.) at *Colchester* in *Essex*. And the first Christian King *Lucius* was born there also. And this holy Design for a Reformation of Manners began in *England*. The present Generation has been unhappily debauched by those who made *England* to Sin, but of late great Care has been taken for the Education of a young Generation in the Ways of Piety, whom it is to be hoped, the Lord will acknowledge for a Generation to serve him. It may be the Lord will visit the Land of our Fathers Sepulchres with sore Judgments, because of the crying Sins which have been, and are still there; Yet surely he hath mercy in Store for the Isles afar off. This attempt for the Reformation of Manners begins to take in other Protestant Countries also, which is an happy Omen.

4. That which is most worthie our taking Notice of, is what has lately been done in *Germany*. We that live in a remote *American* Wilderness, may well be Strangers to some considerable Motions and Transactions in other Parts of the World; nevertheless we are informed of a notable Reformation advanced in several Provinces in *Germany*. Not long since a Number of Students in the University of *Lipsick*, gathered into a private College, for the promoting of Scripture-knowledge, by means whereof, real and practical Christianity was much advanced. As this new Reformation has obtained a footing in diverse Provinces in *Germany*, so especially in the part of *Saxony* which belongs to the King of *Prussia*, and in other parts of the Dukedom of *Brandenburg*. The chief Instrument in promoting this Work was, that excellently Learned and holy Man, *Dr. Spener*; he is lately deceased, to the Unspeakable Loss of the Churches in that part of the World. Next to him, *Dr. Frank* has been an eminent Instrument, not above fourteen years ago, viz. In the Year 1694. There was by the favour of the King of *Prussia*, an University open'd in the city of *Hall* in *Saxony*. This is in a few years Time (which is wonderful) become the most flourishing of all the Protestant Academies in *Germany*; four years since, there were above 3000 Students there. This famous Academy, is under the Inspection of 3 learned Doctors of Divinity, who make it their Business to promote Religion, as well as Learning; And enquire into the spiritual State of the young Scholars, especially of such as are designed for the Ministry; admonishing them that they are not to take up the Ministry as a Trade, or to get a living thereby, but to promote the Glory of God in the World, and the Salvation of the Souls of Men; by means thereof, many happy Instruments are sent forth, who make it their Design to promote Christian

Christian Knowledge and Practice. There has also been an Hospital lately erected at *Glauca* near *Hall*, wherein many Poor Children are advantaged with a pious Education. Concerning this Hospital many things little less than miraculous, have been credibly reported. Such Instances of the Power of Faith and Prayer, as have been very remarkable. It cannot be supposed but that Satan and his Instruments will rage at these Attempts for a greater Reformation in the Churches which are called reformed. The chief Instruments in promoting it having declared that a corrupt Clergy, who had only a Form of Godliness without the Power of it, were the great Obstructors of that Purity and Piety, which ought to be endeavoured after; they brought upon themselves a Storm of Indignation from that Tribe of Men who in a way of Derision called the Reformers by the Name of Pietists. And Anti-pietists charged them with Fanaticism, nay with Heresy: Hereupon the King of *Prussia* appointed Commissioners to enquire into the Doctrine, Principles and Practices of those who were Nick-named *Pietists*; & the Commissioners found them to be Men solid and Orthodox, and such as really deserved to be esteemed pious Men. The History of these things is that which very few in *New-England* have had any Knowledge of; And I have therefore been the more willing to take Notice thereof. There has been nothing parallel to it, since the first Reformation, near two hundred years ago. The Relator in a Book translated in a Book into English and Printed at *London*, 1705. Declares these things to be of indubitable Truth, & judgeth them to be among the greatest Transactions at this Day in the World.

Some have observed, That in these latter Ages each Century has been attended with considerable Motions in the World, respecting Religion. So it was 350 Years ago in *England*, when *Wickliff* was raised up to testify against the Idolatries of the Church of *Rome*. And his great Patron, the Duke of *Lancaster* said to the Bishop of *London* (d), I will bring down the Pride, not of you alone, but of all the Prelates in *England*. And great Commotions there were near the Beginning of the next Century, when *John Huss* and *Jerom* of *Prague* were Martyred and perfidiously Murdered, contrary to the Emperors Promise of safe Conduct through the Instigation of a Popish Council. Some have thought that *Huss* was inspired when he said at his Death, you may kill the Goose (*Huss* in the *Bohemian* Language signifieth a Goose,) but an hundred Years hence, a *Swan*, (*Luther* signifies a *Swan*) will appear, and you shall not kill him; which

(d) *Fuller*. Hist. B. 4. pag. 135.

came to pass accordingly. Also *Jerom* of *Prague* told them, You shall answer for this an hundred Years hence. In the following Century *Luther* and *Zwinglius* were the principal Instruments in Reforming *Germany* and *Switzerland*. The Beginning of the last Century was remarkable, as for the Wars in *Germany*, especially in *Bobemia* on the Account of Religion; so for the Attempts of some eminent Divines to revive Primitive Christianity. In that pious Design, *Dr. Gerbard* and *Dr. Meisner* Professor in the University at *Wittenberg*, were engaged, they had an Intention of opening a Practical College for the Students in that University, or a *Collegium Pietatis*; but the obtaining of what he desired was reserv'd for another Age.

In Magnis voluisse sat est.

As for this present Century, it begins wonderfully, and will probably be the most wonderful Age that ever was since the World began. It is a little surprizing, that a Cardinal who lived 250 Years since, should be aware of this, yet so it was: For *Cusanus* so long ago building his Opinion on *Daniels* Numbers, concluded, that soon after the Year 1700 Antichrist will be destroyed, and the Church have a glorious Resurrection.

There are some learned Men, who begin the Reign and Rise of Antichrist (and consequently his Ruin) later than I have done. They supposing his rising to be upon the Deposition of *Augustulus* the last Roman Emperor, which was *Anno Dom.* 476, conclude that the Beasts Dominion will end 1736. When also according to the Chronology of the *Samaritan Pentateuch*, which exceeds the *Hebrew* 311 Years, it will be just 6000 Years since the World was Created. If the time should be protracted so long, 28 Years will soon be expired.

That the Time for fulfilling of glorious Prophecies is near, we have Scripture Ground to hope, because of that Light in *Apocalyptical* Mysteries, which has in the last Age broke forth. *Mr. Mede* has in my Opinion, excelled all (and yet there are above 30) who have written on the *Revelation*, which has often made me think, of what an aged Gentleman many Years since affirmed to me, *viz.* That when he was a Student in the University of *Cambridge*, it being known that *Mr. Mede* was studying the *Revelation*, the *Puritans* of those Days (as good Men were then honourably Nick-named) in their private Meetings used to Pray much for him; that the Lord would discover to him the Meaning of that mysterious Book. Of late many other learned Men have bent their

Studies

Studies that Way. And they have made happy Discoveries. Now the Unsealing of these Mysteries is a Sign that the Time of the End is at Hand, *Dan. 12. 9.*

For my own Part, I do not expect to live to the Accomplishment of these Things which I have now mentioned as not far off. Nor can I desire to continue so long in this sinful World; Nevertheless, I am comforted in seeing the Day is approaching, when the Kingdom of Anti-christ will receive an happy fatal Blow, and the Holy Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ will prevail and break in Pieces all that shall stand in Opposition thereto. That pious Man Mr. Carter, [see his Life, *pag. 10.*] (who was a Minister of Christ at *Bramford* in *Suffolk*,) was often heard saying, I have had a longing Desire to see or hear of the Fall of Anti-christ, but I check my self I shall go to Heaven, and there the News of it will quickly arrive. Undoubtedly, the glorified Spirits in the Heavenly *Jerusalem*, altho' they are not concerned in our particular Affairs, nevertheless are not ignorant of the great Things done on the Earth, wherein the Church in general is concerned, and the Tidings of the downfall of Mystical *Babylon*, when they shall hear of it, will cause them to Rejoice. Rejoice over her thou Heaven, and ye Holy Apostles and Prophets. A M E N.

F I N I S.
